

- (b) directing vapors formed in the reaction zone to a distillation means to form an azeotrope containing 10 wt. % or less of water;
- (c) condensing the azeotrope to form an condensate; *containing*
- (d) separating the condensate into an organic phase rich in ethyl acetate and an aqueous phase rich in water; and
- (e) directing at least a portion of the organic phase rich in ethyl acetate to the reaction zone ~~to act~~ *as* an azeotroping agent.--

--10. (Amended) A process for producing ethyl acetate comprising:

- (a) contacting acetic acid and ethanol in a reaction zone in the presence of a catalyst;
- (b) directing vapors formed in the reaction zone to a distillation means to form an azeotrope containing 10 wt. % or less of water;
- (c) condensing the ~~azeotrope~~ *azeo* to form an condensate;
- (d) separating the condensate into an organic phase rich in ethyl acetate and an aqueous phase rich in water;
- (e) directing at least a portion of the organic phase rich in ethyl acetate to a membrane separation unit to form a dried organic stream; and
- (f) directing at least a portion of the dried organic stream to the distillation means ~~to act~~ *as* an azeotroping agent.—

A clean version of the foregoing claims is also attached at Appendix A. A marked-up version showing changes to the claims appears as Appendix B.